THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) to (d) MA 14 Section runs between Madurai and Tirunelveli. The matter of its extension from Tirunelveli to Nagarcoil is under examination in consultation with offices likely to be affected by the change.

Crimes Against Women in Maharashtra

1261. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra accounts for highest incidence of crimes against women after Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof for last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether Government have issued instructions to State Government of Maharashtra to curb the growing incidence of crime against women in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the response of the State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) Available data indicate that Maharashtra accounted for the highest incidence of Crime Against Women after Uttar Pradesh during 1994 and 1995. In 1993, however, Maharashtra had registered the highest incidence of such crimes in the country. Relevant information is given below:—

(Incidence of Crime Against Women)

Year	Maharashtra	Uttar Pradesh
1993	14,416	14,216
1994	13,568	15,914
1995	15,378	15,411

(c) to (e) The Central Government has, from time to time, been communicating with the State Governments stressing upon them the need for taking preventive, punitive and rehabilitative measures in connection with crimes against women. In his recent letter dated September 12, 1996 addressed to the Chief Ministers, the Home Minister has advised the States once again to consider swift and salutary punishment for those public servants found guilty of custodial violence against women; fixing time limit and monitoring of investigation of cases of murder, rape and torture of women; establishment of Women's Cells; intensive gender sensitisation programmes for police officers; appointment of Dowry Prohibition Officers; and provision of Conselling Centres-cum-Shelter Homes for women in districts where disproportionate level of crimes agaisnt women in noticed. Most of the States, including Maharashtra, have responded positively to the communications of the Central Government.

Allocation of Funds for Development of National Highways During Eighth Plan

1262. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the fund allotted to different States for construction and development of National Highways during Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether Government of Orissa had sought financial assistance for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details of the amount sanctioned to Orissa in that Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Rs. 3078 crores have been allocated to various States for construction and development of National Highways during the 8th Five Year Plan.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During the VIIIth Plan, a sum of Rs. 152.7 crores has been allocated to